



Embassy of the United States of America
Bridgetown, Barbados

Warden Message **October 15, 2008**

This warden message is being issued to alert U.S. citizens residing and traveling in the Netherlands Antilles, St. Martin, St. Barthelemy, the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, St. Kitt's and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, Guadeloupe, and Monserrat that the National Hurricane Center (NHC) www.nhc.noaa.gov and local governments in the Caribbean have issued alerts for Hurricane Omar, which is currently gaining speed and moving toward the islands of the Eastern Caribbean.

Hurricane Omar has been strengthening over the northeastern Caribbean Sea and heavy rains continue to lash Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao. A Hurricane Warning is in effect for St. Martin/Maarten, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Barthelemy, the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla, and St. Kitts and Nevis. A Hurricane Warning means that hurricane conditions are expected within the warning area in the next 24 hours. Preparations to protect life and property should be rushed to completion.

Omar is moving toward the East-Northeast at speeds near 13MPH/20KPH. A gradual turn back toward the northeast is forecast to occur later today with an increase in forward speed expected over the next day or two. On this track, Omar is forecast to move through the Northern Leeward islands late tonight and early Thursday.

The National Hurricane Center indicates maximum winds are near 85 MPH/ 140 KPH with higher gusts. Omar is a Category 1 hurricane, but forecasters expect strengthening in the next 24 hours that would reclassify Omar as a Category 2 Hurricane by the time it reaches the Northern Leeward islands.

For additional information, see the National Hurricane website advisory at:
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/refresh/MIATCPAT5+shtml/151449.shtml>

The U.S. Embassy also wishes to alert American Citizen residents and visitors in Antigua and Barbuda, Montserrat, and Guadeloupe, that a Tropical Storm Warning is in effect. A Tropical Storm

Warning means that tropical storm conditions are expected within the warning area in the next 24 hours. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has issued an independent Hurricane Warning and encourages its residents to prepare for hurricane conditions.

These rains could produce life-threatening flash floods and mud slides. Omar is expected to produce large swells that will affect the west- and south-facing coasts of all of the islands of the Lesser Antilles. These prolonged swells could cause beach erosion and damage to coastal structures. For additional information, see the National Hurricane website advisory at:
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/refresh/MIATCPAT5+shtml/151449.shtml>

The U.S. Embassy will continue to monitor the storm's track, and will issue updated messages. U.S. citizens are urged to locate shelter, monitor media reports, and follow all official instructions. U.S. citizens should carry their travel documents at all times (i.e. U.S. Passport, Birth Certificate, picture IDs, etc.) or secure them in safe, waterproof locations. We also suggest that American citizens contact friends and family in the United States with updates about their whereabouts.

Additional information on hurricanes and storm preparedness may be found in the "Hurricane Season-Know Before You Go" pamphlet at:
http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/hurricane_season/hurricane_season_2915.html , and on the "Natural Disasters" page of the Bureau of Consular Affairs' website at:
http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1207.html.

Please continue to monitor the Embassy's website for updated information, <http://bridgetown.usembassy.gov>. You may also consult the websites: www.weathercarib.com, and www.anguilla-weather.com, for up-to-date weather tracking information on the storm in your local areas.

For any emergencies involving American citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Embassy's Consular Section, located at [Wilkey Business Park, Wilkey, St. Michael, Barbados](#); telephone (246)227-4000;; ACS unit fax (246)431-0179; e-mail consularbridge2@state.gov; web page <http://bridgetown.usembassy.gov>.

For emergencies involving American citizens in the Netherlands Antilles, please contact the U.S. Consulate General, located at J.B. Gorsiraweg #1, Willemstad, Curaçao, telephone (599-9) 461-3066; fax (599-9) 461-6489; e-mail address: acscuracao@state.gov.

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